

&c. In such a state of things, he orders the suspected fluids to be evaporated to dryness by a gentle heat, the product treated with boiling distilled water, to get rid of a portion of the animal matter, then filtered, decolorized by means of animal charcoal, and then the tests applied as above.

It should also be observed, that all the above experiments are solely intended to demonstrate the nature of the poisons, and not to determine the exact proportions of each; where this is wished, other and more complicated processes must be resorted to.

The whole memoir is an additional proof of the discriminating judgment of the author in this department of science, and will amply repay an attentive perusal.

R. E. G.

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XIX. *Principles of Physiological Medicine, in the form of Propositions; embracing Physiology, Pathology, and Therapeutics, with Commentaries on those relating to Pathology.* By J. F. V. BROUSSAIS, M. D. &c. Translated from the French by ISAAC HAYS, M. D. and R. EGLESFELD GRIFFITH, M. D. &c. 8vo. pp. 594. Philadelphia, Carey & Lea.

The present work is unquestionably a very important and necessary companion to the Treatise on Physiology as applied to Pathology, by the same author. The two works present a very fair exposition of the principal features of the physiological doctrine of medicine as taught by its celebrated founder. From no other source can a complete acquaintance with it be obtained—at least with so little trouble and in so satisfactory a manner. Into the actual value of that doctrine, when tested by a course of clinical investigations, and its agreement or disagreement with the results of actual experience, it is unnecessary at present to examine. As a mere object of curiosity, in consequence of the long and bitter controversy to which it has given rise, there is no member of the medical profession but must desire to make himself conversant with its peculiarities, and the facts and arguments by which it is attempted to be supported; and when he reflects that its announcement formed a new era in the history of our science, and that through its influence important changes have been effected in the medical opinions, modes of reasoning, and practice held and pursued by the physicians of almost every school and country, he will be led as a matter of duty to its attentive study, in order that he may keep pace with the actual advances of his profession. From whichever of these causes an interest may be excited in the doctrines advocated by M. Broussais, the present work will form an indispensable addition to the library of every physician.

It presents in a corrected form his celebrated propositions first published in 1821, with very full commentaries on such of them as relate especially to pathology. In these commentaries, the peculiar views of the author in reference to the nature and character of the several morbid conditions of the human frame are minutely detailed and illustrated by various facts and arguments.

The author assures us that in these commentaries he has faithfully related what he has seen concerning pathological phenomena, what he has done to remedy them, and what he has observed in the bodies of those who have died. "Nothing is easier than at the present time, to verify these facts, and to see

whether the inductions which will be drawn from them, for man always forms some conclusions from what he has seen, are conformable to those of the author himself." In this manner the correctness of the doctrines of physiological medicine can be readily tested by comparing the deductions upon which it rests with the facts which every day present themselves to the notice of the industrious and observing practitioner, even though the sphere of his observations be far more limited than that afforded by the wards of an extensive hospital.

In the preparation of his commentaries, M. Broussais states that he has for four years constantly laboured with his whole soul, in all the frankness and good faith of which he was capable, making it a duty to include in them the result of his experience and of his meditations.

The work under notice proves M. Broussais not to be so obstinately opposed, as has frequently been asserted, to the slightest modifications of the opinions originally announced by him, even when these opinions have been clearly proved to be incorrect; on the contrary, it will be found that he seizes with avidity, upon every fact which the investigations of his contemporaries have succeeded in bringing to light, and whenever these militate against the conclusions to which he had previously arrived, he cheerfully admits and corrects his error. The attentive reader will find, in perusing the present work, that in various particulars his doctrines have been modified in accordance with truths subsequently established. The main features nevertheless remain unchanged.

Of the manner in which the translation is executed it will be improper to say any thing in this place. If they who are conversant with the French, detect a few slight inaccuracies, they must confess at the same time that these could scarcely be avoided, in the translation of a work of the peculiar character of the present. In many instances the sense of the original could be rendered in the English only by an awkward periphrasis; in attempting to avoid which, by a more concise and literal rendering, the sense of the author is occasionally somewhat obscured; but as a whole, the fact of its clearness and fidelity will be universally conceded.

D. F. C.

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XX. *Manual of General, Descriptive and Pathological Anatomy.* By J. F. MECKEL, Professor of Anatomy at Halle, being an English translation from the French. With Notes. By A. SINGER DOANE, M. D. of New York. 3 vols. octavo. pp. 500. Philadelphia. Published by Carey & Lea, 1832.

The very general celebrity of this work of Professor Meckel, and its acknowledged merit, have made an English version of it, an acquisition of no small importance to the profession of medicine. An intimate acquaintance with it from repeated reference and consultation, has placed it in the opinion of the writer of this article, among the most classical, learned, and authoritative treatises on anatomy, under the very modest cognomen of a manual; it is in fact a system quite as full as can be well desired, either for the student of medicine, or for the practitioner. So far from the professor having the appearance of being cramped for the want of space, the most of his observations, except those on pathology and physiology, are made with a diffusiveness certainly equal to any disposition for study found commonly among medical men.